

OPERATIONS CENTER/CURRENT SUPPORT GROUP

DC7

Intelligence Bulletin REUTER'S, R168, R169, R170
Brazil to Unload Arms from Detained Libyan Planes

Item No. 1
20 April 1983

***R168

R 10887)1ZOTCYNAYR

***R-PLANES (3 TAKES)†

BRAZIL TO UNLOAD ARMS FROM DETAINED LIBYAN PLANES

BY RENE VILLEGAS

BRASILIA, APRIL 20, REUTER - THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT TODAY ORDERED THE UNLOADING OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES FOUND IN FOUR LIBYAN CARGO PLANES DURING A REFUELING STOP HERE EN ROUTE TO NICARAGUA, FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES SAID.

THE EMPTY PLANES -- THREE SOVIET-BUILT ILYUSHINS AND A HERCULES -- WOULD THEN BE FREE TO DEPART WITH THEIR 49 CREWMEMBERS AND THE ARMS WOULD BE RETURNED SEPARATELY TO LIBYA, THE SOURCES SAID.

BRAZIL SEIZED THE PLANES AFTER AN INSPECTION OF THE CARGOES MONDAY EVENING. IN AN OFFICIAL PROTEST IT ACCUSED THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT OF A BREACH OF TRUST IN REQUESTING TRANSIT PERMISSION FOR THE PLANES ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY WERE CARRYING MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES SAID THE LIBYAN EMBASSY IN BRASILIA HAD BEEN INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO CHECK THE UNLOADING OF THE PLANES.

THE THREE ILYUSHINS WERE IN MANAUS IN THE HEART OF THE AMAZON BASIN WHILE THE U.S.-BUILT HERCULES, WHICH HAS A TECHNICAL PROBLEM, WAS IN THE NORTHEASTERN CITY OF RECIFE.†

***R169

R 10925)2ZOTCYNIYC

***R-PLANES 2 BRASILIA†

LIBYAN LEADER MUHAMMAR GADDAFI TODAY EXPRESSED REGRETS AT THE "DISHONESTY" OF A LIBYAN CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIAL IN NOT INFORMING BRAZIL OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PLANES. BUT HE DID NOT SAY WHAT THE PLANES WERE CARRYING.

GADDAFI, WHOSE REMARKS WERE REPORTED BY THE LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY, SAID THE INCIDENT WAS BEING EXPLOITED BY "IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM" IN ORDER TO DISRUPT RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND BRAZIL.

NICARAGUA'S SANDINIST GOVERNMENT, ACCUSED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN OF BEING AN AGENT OF COMMUNIST SUBVERSION IN CENTRAL AMERICA, IS FIGHTING A GROWING GUERRILLA WAR AGAINST OPPOSITION GROUPS INCLUDING SUPPORTERS OF FORMER DICTATOR ANASTASIO Somoza.

Page 1 of 2

Libyan Planes

THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET DECIDED HOW THE ARMS WOULD BE RETURNED TO LIBYA BUT IT MIGHT BE BY SEA.

THE DECISION TO UNLOAD THE ARMS WAS TAKEN AT A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN BRASILIA THIS MORNING, THE SOURCES SAID.†

†††R170

R 10940) LZQTZSACZC

†††R-PLANES 3 BRASILIA†

FOREIGN MINISTER RAHMO SARAIYA GUERREIRO, WHO TOLD REPORTERS ONLY HOURS BEFORE THE INSPECTION THAT THE LIBYAN PLANES HAD BEEN GIVEN LANDING PERMISSION ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING.

THE FOUR PLANES WERE DUE TO STOPOVER IN MANAUS LAST SATURDAY BUT LANDED IN RECIFE INSTEAD WHEN THE HERCULES DEVELOPED TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.

THE THREE ILYUSHINS FLEW TO MANAUS MONDAY BUT THE FOURTH PLANE WAS STILL BEING REPAIRED AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE READY TO DEPART WITH THE OTHERS WHEN THE CARGOES WERE UNLOADED, THE SOURCES SAID.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY IN BRASILIA SAID BOGOTA HAD RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR PERMISSION FOR ALL FOUR PLANES TO FLY OVER ITS TERRITORY EN ROUTE FOR NICARAGUA ONLY ON MONDAY.

IN MAY LAST YEAR A BRITISH VULCAN BOMBER ON A MISSION TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS HAD MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN RIO DE JANEIRO.

BEFORE RELEASING THE PLANE A WEEK LATER, THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT DISARMED IT OF A SINGLE MISSILE AND RECEIVED A PLEDGE FROM LONDON THAT THE VULCAN WOULD NOT BE USED AGAIN IN THE CONFLICT WITH ARGENTINA.†